

## Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 IO-10 SAB-01 SAM-01 EUR-12

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 FEAE-00 INT-05

COME-00 TRSE-00 /086 W

----- 112099

P R 311326Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2657

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS BEIRUT 1490

USIA FOR IOP/M, IPS, IBS, INA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, XF, LE

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: U.S. DIPLOMACY IN MIDEAST

1. SUMMARY. U.S. DIPLOMATIC MOVES IN MIDEAST, WHILE OVERSHADOWED BY PURELY LOCAL EVENTS AND BY PRESIDENT SADAT'S TRIP TO FRANCE, ARE SUBJECT OF LIMITED EDITORIAL COMMENT. LEADING INDEPENDENT AN-NAHAR WARNS AGAINST DANGERS OF FAILURE OF U.S. PEACE EFFORTS BUT EXPRESSES CONVICTION THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER WILL DO ALL HE CAN TO MAKE NEXT STAGE SUCCEED. PRO-LIBYAN AS-SAFIR ATTACKS BOTH SECRETARY KISSINGER AND THOSE ARABS WHO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR HIM. PRO-EGYPTIAN AL-ANWAR DECLARES ARABS INNOCENT OF BEGINNING OIL EMBARGO AND CRITICIZES PRESIDENT FORD'S STATEMENTS ON OIL. END SUMMARY.

2. MICHEL ABU JAWDEH, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF LEADING INDEPENDENT AN-NAHAR, WRITES IN FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL: "DR. KISSINGER IS UNCLASSIFIED

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BEING CAUTIOUS. YESTERDAY, HE ANNOUNCED HE IS COMING TO

MIDEAST ON RECONNAISSANCE MISSION AND NOT TO SHUTTLE AMONG CAPITALS. THIS PUBLIC CAUTION HAS BECOME TRADITIONAL FOR THE AMERICAN SECRETARY.... IN ANY EVENT, PRESENT DEVELOPMENTS APPEAR TO BE MORE POSITIVE WITH REGARD TO PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT THAN THOSE OF RECENT MONTHS. PRESIDENT OF EGYPT HAS NOT CLOSED DOOR. ON CONTRARY, HE HAS OPENED IT WIDE FOR DR. KISSINGER TO TAKE WHAT AMERICAN DIPLOMACY HAS BEGUN TO CALL LAST STEP BEFORE PEACE CONFERENCE.... THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THINGS HAVE BECOME EASY. ON SURFACE AT LEAST, TYPE OF AGREEMENT TO BE REACHED BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL HAS NOT YET BEEN AGREED UPON.... THERE IS ALSO QUESTION OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM REMAINING FRONTS... BUT IN FACT ISRAEL HAS IN THE PAST REJECTED MANY THINGS AND THEN AGREED TO THEM UNDER AMERICAN PRESSURE. NOTHING WOULD PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING AGAIN, ESPECIALLY SINCE DR. KISSINGER WILL PUT ALL HIS FEARS OF FAILURE BEHIND PRODUCING AGREEMENT DURING HIS COMING TOUR. MOST PROBABLY, HE WILL INTENSIFY HIS EFFORTS IN ORDER TO PREPARE THE WAY BEFORE COMING OIL SUMMIT. IF NOT, OIL SUMMIT WILL FIND ITSELF OBLIGED TO TAKE EXTREME POSITIONS AT PROMPTING OF ARAB STATES. NEEDLESS TO SAY, U.S. MUST TAKE ACTION BEFITTING ALMOST TOTAL CONFIDENCE THAT PRESIDENT SADAT HAS PLACED IN ITS POLICY. THIS CAMBLE ON PART OF PRESIDENT OF EGYPT MAY COST HIM DEARLY IF WASHINGTON DOES NOT FULFILL ITS PROMISES OR PLEDGES."

3. PRO-LIBYAN AS-SAFIR WRITES: "NOW THAT GROMYKO AND KISSINGER ARE PREPARING TO VISIT ARAB AREA, IDEA PUT FORTH BY ADVOCATES OF OPENING TOWARDS U.S., WHO CLAIM THAT U.S. IS ONLY ONE CAPABLE OF PRESSURING ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW FROM LANDS IT OCCUPIED IN 1967, WILL BE REVITALIZED.... WHILE IN THEORY THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOME JUSTIFICATION FOR THIS LOGIC RIGHT AFTER OCTOBER WAR, NOW, AFTER ALL THIS TIME HAS PASSED SINCE OCTOBERWAR, THERE ARE PRAGMATIC SIGNS THAT KISSINGER NEVER PRESSURED ISRAEL AT ALL AND INSTEAD PRESSURED ARABS HEAVILY, ESPECIALLY THOSE ADVOCATING OPENING TOWARDS U.S..... IT IS WORTH NOTING HERE THAT KISSINGER'S THREATS ARE DIRECTED AGAINST ARAB OIL-PRODUCING STATES AND ALMOST COMPLETELY IGNORE NON-ARAB OIL STATES, EVEN THOUGH STATE LIKE IRAN REJECTS AMERICAN DEMAND TO REDUCE OIL PRICES WHILE SAUDI ARABI RESPONDS ENTHUSIASTICALLY."

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4. IN SECOND EDITORIAL, AS-SAFIR WRITES: "SECRETARY'S REMARKS ATTRACT ATTENTION WHEN THEY SAY THERE IS DANGER THAT USSR WOULD SUPPORT ENEMIES OF STATES THAT U.S. HAS PROMISED TO SUPPLY WITH ARMS. THEY MAKE US ASK WHO ENEMIES OF OMAN, SAUDI ARABI, AND KUWAIT ARE.... UNDOUBTEDLY, DOCUMENTS NAMING THESE NON-ISRAELI ENEMIES HAVE BEEN EXCHANGED WITH WASHINGTON.... THEY HAVE NOT BEEN PUBLISHED, AND IT IS

IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN THEM EASILY. YET, WE HAVE RIGHT TO  
ASK: ARE THESE ENEMIES THE GUERRILLAS OF DHOFAR AND GULF  
AND THE FREE MEN OF NORTH AND SOUTH YEMEN, AS WELL AS OF  
IRAQ? AND IS ISRAEL NO LONGER THE ENEMY?"

5. LEADING PRO-EGYPTIAN AL-ANWAR, UNDER HEADLINE "WHO IS  
STRANGLING AMERICA?", WRITES: "U.S. HAS INCREASED ITS  
IMPORTS OF ARAB OIL SINCE OCTOBER WAR. IT HAS BEEN  
REVEALED IN REPORT PUBLISHED RECENTLY IN NEW YORK THAT  
OIL EMBARGO AGAINST U.S. WAS ORIGINALLY IMPOSED BY NON-ARAB  
STATES, PROBABLY FOR ECONOMIC REASON... YET FORD  
THREATENS TO INVADE ARAB STATES BECAUSE THEY ARE STRANGLING  
AMERICA."

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